



**American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA)'s Statement on the House Passage of
the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act***

September 14, 2022

The American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA) commends the House of Representatives for passage of H.R. 3173, the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*. AMRPA is pleased to see the overwhelmingly bipartisan support for this legislation, which would make critically important changes to prior authorization practices in the Medicare Advantage program. Numerous measures in this bill have been a top priority for AMRPA hospitals over the last several years, including requirements pertaining to reviewer qualification standards, authorization response timeframes, and improved transparency regarding plans' overturn and appeal rates. AMRPA believes that many of the commonsense reforms in the bill have the potential to address the pronounced access issues and care delays currently impacting Medicare Advantage beneficiaries.

"Prior authorization is an issue that impacts rehabilitation hospital and unit patients every single day," said AMRPA Board of Directors Chair, Anthony Cuzzola. "AMRPA hospitals see firsthand the harmful impact of prior authorization, which requires providers and patients to fight an uphill battle to get them the care they need. Medicare Advantage patients are regularly denied access to critically needed care due to the decisions of contractors with limited to no experience with medical rehabilitation. Even those Medicare Advantage patients that can access inpatient rehabilitation still face harmful delays and stressful appeals. AMRPA is therefore pleased to see passage of the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*, which would take critical first steps to rectify these issues. We encourage the Senate to take up this vital legislation prior to the end of the year."

AMRPA is the only national voluntary trade association representing more than 700 inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and units. AMRPA member hospitals provide rehabilitation services across multiple health care settings to help patients maximize their health, functional skills, independence, and participation in society so they can return to home, work, or an active retirement. In March, AMRPA released the results of a [nationwide survey](#), which demonstrated the inappropriate denial and delays in accessing care faced by Medicare Advantage beneficiaries.